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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
10/083,481	02/27/2002	Yuko Iwabuchi	29273/559 5826			
23838 759	90 02/10/2004		EXAMINER			
KENYON & KENYON			BERMAN, JACK I			
1500 K STREET WASHINGTON	T, N.W., SUITE 700 N. DC 20005		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		
	,		2881	2881 DATE MAILED: 02/10/2004		
			DATE MAILED: 02/10/200			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary Application No. Applicant(s) INVABUCH ET AL Examin Family Family Family Family Job Family Family Family Family As HORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAINTENANCE THE MALINED DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION Examins of time may be available under the previous of 37 CFR 11360. In ne ever, heaves, may engly be firmly filed also \$XI (s) MONTH'S from the mainting date of the communication, pay white in authory minimum date of providing the providing of th						MU			
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Jack I. Berman Jack II. Berman Jack III. Berman Jack II. Berman Jack III. Berman Jack III			10/083,481		IWABUCHI ET AL.				
The MAILING DATE of this communication app are on the cover by with the correspondence address Period for Repty A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ② MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Educations to time may be evaluated under the provision of 3 of FR 1 19(a). In no event, however, may a repty be timely filled after 50x (5) MONTH'S to the relating date of the interior 30 date, a repty within the statutory minimum of bink (50) days will be considered timely. **FORD part of repty is specified under the provision of th		Office Action Summary	Examin r		Art Unit				
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Exemplates of lines may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.736(s). In an event, however, may a reply be timely filled If this operiod for exply seried abover, the maximum statutory parted will apply and will explice SIK (5) MONTH'S from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to reply seried abover, the maximum statutory parted will apply and will explice SIK (5) MONTH'S from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to reply which is soft where the laptives meriod will apply and will explice SIK (5) MONTH'S from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to reply which the provision of the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any search plant it am adjustment. See 37 GFR 1.704(s). Status 1) Responsive to communication(s) filled on 29 December 2003. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-finat. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1,4-13 and 16 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are allowed. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 11) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Ex			Jack I. Berman		2881				
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CPR 1.13(a). In or event, however, may a reply be timely filled after EX (6) MONTHS from the nating date of this communication. If the premiding timely specified shore is less than they can be also and they are the communication of the provision of the provi		•	op ars on the cover	sh t with the co	orrespond nce add	ress			
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2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3 Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1.4-13 and 16 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: allowed. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: allowed. Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(e) 1) Notice of Grafepersor's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclasure Statement(s) (PTO-144) or PTO-158)	Status								
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Application/Control Number: 10/083,481

Art Unit: 2881

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 4-13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The amendment filed on December 29, 2003 adds the new limitation of a step of "determining a beam current of the electron beam to be at least 100nA based on a signal to noise ratio of an image of the defect and an inspection time" to independent method claim 1 and a limitation of "the beam current of the electron beam being determined to be at least 100nA of beam current determined based on a signal to noise ratio of an image of the defect and an inspection time" to independent apparatus claim 9. However, according to paragraphs 76-78 on pages 28-30 of the specification, it is the electron beam current that determines the signal to noise ratio and the required inspection time, not vice versa. Therefore, the invention claimed in independent claims 1 and 9 and dependent claims 4-8, 10-13, and 16, which depend from independent claims 1 and 9, are not described in the original disclosure.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Feuerbaum et al. for the reasons explained in the previous Office action.

Claims 5, 6, 11, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feuerbaum et al. in view of Meisburger et al. for the reasons explained in the previous Office action.

Claims 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feuerbaum et al. in view of Rose et al. for the reasons explained in the previous Office action.

Claims 8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feuerbaum et al. in view of Todokoro et al. for the reasons explained in the previous Office action.

Applicant's arguments filed December 29, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's argument that the cited references do not disclose or suggest determining a beam current of the electron beam to be at least 100nA based on a signal to noise ratio of an image of the defect and an inspection time, even if this is interpreted as setting the beam current of the electron beam to be at least 100 nA so as to give a desired signal to noise ratio of an image of a defect and a desired inspection time, the fact that applicant has recognized another advantage which would flow naturally from following the suggestion of the prior art cannot be the basis for patentability when the differences would otherwise be obvious. See *Ex parte Obiaya*, 227 USPQ 58, 60 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985). As was pointed out in the

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previous Office action, Feuerbaum et al. teaches, at lines 67 in column 1 through 36 in column 2 and lines 32 in column 3 through 52 in column 4, that one of the objectives of the patented invention is to allow the use of higher beam currents in scanning particle microscopes than is possible in the prior art without a reduction in resolution. Feuerbaum does not define "higher beam current" so it is not clear if Feuerbaum actually anticipates a beam current of 100 nA, but the patent at the very least makes such a beam current obvious in an electron beam inspection method and device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack I. Berman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2468. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00) with every second Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2477. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jack d. Berman
Jack I. Berman
Primary Examiner
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